

MEDIA RELEASE

HIGHER MURRAY RIVER FLOWS PROMPT ALERT FOR HOLIDAY HOME OWNERS IN MID MURRAY

Forecasts of increasing flows in the Murray River over coming weeks have prompted the Mid Murray Council to alert river users and property owners along the river to be prepared.

Murray River flows into SA reached 36GL per day on Friday, 17 June, with the rising waters due to several factors.

Heavy rains in the Eastern States have led to increased flows in the Murray-Darling Basin, and water has been released from storages including the Menindee Lakes to manage these inflows, resulting in increasing flows to SA.

Flows of up to 40GL into SA are at the upper level of the normal range, however, the higher they rise and once they go over that threshold, there's an increased risk of faster currents and submerged debris.

Higher river levels are forecast to continue throughout June. Covering one of the longest stretches of the Murray River for any local government in Australia, the Mid Murray Council is mindful that changes in river levels and flows may impact its community.

Mid Murray Mayor Dave Burgess said Council is encouraging all river users and riverfront property owners and residents to be aware of the higher flows – and the possibility they may increase further.

"We're fortunate to enjoy some of the most beautiful parts of the Murray River right here on our doorstep and it's fantastic to see it looking fuller and healthier after droughts only a few years ago," Mayor Burgess said.

"However, with the increased water levels, there are other possible challenges we need to be mindful of. There's a small possibility that if levels continue to rise, there may be a risk of minor inundation in some areas.

"It also changes the river's behaviour – and this is something all users should be watching out for. Faster currents present a danger for those on or in the water, and there's also the risk of submerged threats such as fallen trees or other debris that can be moved by the stronger water flows.

"We encourage anyone living on or near the water to keep up to date with river level forecasts and to check on their properties and river assets such as boats, pontoons and jetties regularly.

"If you're out on the river, be mindful that conditions have changed and, even if you know a particular swimming, kayaking, boating or fishing spot well, there's always a risk of strong currents or new underwater dangers. Check your surroundings thoroughly, wear appropriate protective gear such as a personal floatation device, and always tell someone of your intended movements."

Council will continue to monitor river flows and levels, and will take precautions to protect its own infrastructure in low-lying areas if required.

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Property owners and residents who need sandbags can collect these from Council's Depots by appointment. For details contact 8569 0100.

Find the latest on Murray River flows online here: www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au.

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